

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd August 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	Jyoistha, Ashār, and Shrāvan, 1286 B.S.	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly ...	200		
3	"Sansodhinī" ... ..	Chittagong ...	500		
Fortnightly.					
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	14th August 1879.	
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye ...	.....		
Weekly.					
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta ...	700	12th ditto.	
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	658	12th ditto.	
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	12th ditto.	
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān ...	.....		
10	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca ...	400	17th ditto.	
11	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	1,168	15th ditto.	
12	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca ...	300	13th ditto.	
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200		
14	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	1st ditto.	
15	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	900	18th ditto.	
16	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore ...	235	14th ditto.	
17	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinia, Rangpore ...	250		
18	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah ...	516	17th ditto.	
19	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	18th ditto.	
20	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto ...	1,000	8th and 15th August 1879.	
21	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad ...	.....	15th August 1879.	
22	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh ...	.....		
23	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta ...	5,500	16th ditto.	
Tri-weekly.					
24	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	14th to 21st August 1879.	
Daily.					
25	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto ...	550	16th to 22nd ditto.	
26	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....		
27	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	625	18th, 19th, and 21st August 1879.	
28	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	18th and 19th August 1879.	
29	"Prabhātī" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
30	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....	16th August 1879.	
ENGLISH AND URDU.					
31	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta ...	400	18th to 23rd August 1879.	
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.					
Daily.					
32	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	20th August 1879.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
33	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	14th ditto.	
34	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	18th ditto.	
35	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	15th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
36	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto ...	250		



## POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 12th, 1879.

WE extract the following from the opening editorial of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 12th August:—The concluding sentence of the minute recorded by Lord

Lord Lytton's Administration.

Dalhousie, on the eve of his departure for England, contained a prayer, and expressed a hope that, while in his native land, he might always continue to receive from the territories then brought under the British Administration reports of peace, happiness, and advancement of the people living therein. The saying of the sage Chánakya has it: "Do not put your trust in princes." Now, princes may or may not be trusted, but it is not always wise to believe in the language employed by them without careful consideration. The person who, in the course of a few years, had annexed the Punjab, Pegu, Nagpore, Oudh, Sattara, Jhansi, and the Behars, some on the plea of a right of succession, some on the pretext that the reigning prince was oppressive or that the British Resident had been insulted, and others as a direct consequence of successful war—even he employed the language of prayer in wishing the welfare of India. Like Lord Dalhousie, Lord Lytton, too, is a master of language. It was a characteristic of the former that, whatever he had once persuaded himself was right, he would carry out into practice with a firm hand, undaunted even by a hundred obstacles. This peculiarity is gradually being developed in the character of Lord Lytton also. No other Governor-General probably, except Lord Dalhousie, and after him the present Viceroy, had ever become so unpopular. In justice, however, to Lord Dalhousie, it should be said that, as with one hand he destroyed, so, with the other, he constructed much that still remains. In the picture of his administration there would be found an equal distribution of light and shade. But what is it that we find in the reign of Lord Lytton? No other Governor-General before him ever raised such expectations in our minds, or raised them to disappoint us in an equal degree. No other Viceroy ever captivated our hearts so often with fascinating language, or, again, scorched them with such a needless employment of withering words. No other Viceroy ever patted us on one cheek, while cruelly smiting the other. No other Viceroy so unreasonably and unseasonably distrusted the ever-faithful and weak natives of this country. No other Viceroy ever broke his pledges so soon, or broke them with as much ease as would be required in demolishing an embankment of sand. To no other was it given to shine as the guiding genius of such a grand pageant as the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, while upon the head of no other Governor-General was there ever such a shower of reproach and condemnation heaped by the public.

What hopes were raised in our minds when we heard that the person, who had been chosen to succeed Lord Northbrook as the Viceroy in India, was a poet. A poet, so we thought to ourselves, might have all other faults, but he could not be hard-hearted; and so Lord Lytton's poetic heart would weep at the sight of the Ganges, the Jumna, the Indus, and the Himalayas, and the ruins of the Aryan race and the relics of the Aryan monuments. What hopes sprang up in our minds when we heard his first great public speech in Calcutta; when we found indications of his fearless love of justice in the Fuller case; or, again, when we cast our eyes upon his stately and placid countenance, standing as he was in the picturesque courtyard of the Durbar ground at Delhi and in the midst of Rajas, Nawabs, and Amirs. Poets have compared hope that always springs in the human breast with the mirage and the *ignis fatuus*. Lord Lytton has given a visible shape to this poetic figment. The brain of that person must indeed be unsound, and his heart weak, who could conjure up a thunder-clap from the rattle of dry palm-leaves, could see a tempest in a teapot, or believe he was a



flash of lightning when, in reality, he saw the glimmerings of a glow-worm. The British Government in India is strong in its own intrinsic strength ; it has no object of fear ; no foeman worthy of its steel. In spite of this, the Arms Act was passed, and the old *Som Prakash* cut off, while yet it had life left. Just and outspoken criticism Lord Lytton cannot bear ; hence it was that the British Indian Association was assailed with copious reproofs, and Mr. Yule insulted. However necessary it may be for a ruler to be able to restrain his temper, we might still pardon any occasional lapses in this respect ; but inconsistency in profession, and the breaking of pledges, we hold to be grievous sins. The gravity or the lightness of a sinful act varies according to the gravity or otherwise of the consequences which it leads to ; and it is possible that an offence, which according to ordinary rules of society would lead to trifling consequences, or entail but a light punishment on the offender, may, when committed by a Government, be a grave sin and productive of baleful results. We hold that, by expending the proceeds of the famine cess on matters not having a claim upon it, Lord Lytton has been guilty of a similar sin. Besides this, there is another grave charge which we have brought against him, which yet remains unanswered. In fact that charge is unanswerable. We refer to the remission of the cotton duties. If Lord Lytton had merely diminished the revenues by twenty lakhs of rupees, or had done this with a view to the removal of the obstacles which lie in the way of free trade, even then we might not have, though the times are hard, sighed for the twenty lakhs thus lost. But whether His Excellency and his followers admit this or not, the whole country believes that he has sacrificed the interests of India at the altar of Manchester. What could be a graver charge than this against a ruler ? Man learns from experience ; and we have learnt under Lord Lytton's administration that poetry and hardness of heart may co-exist in the same person, and that the practice and the professions of Government may not always coincide. We have learnt that a fiery current of disaffection is secretly running through the different states of native society, and that, apart from the good of India, in the interests of Manchester, the Government of India has found another object of worship. The belief seems to be that a free public opinion has had considerable indulgence granted it ; and it is now advisable to trample it under foot.

2. The same paper, in adverting to Lord Lytton's minute on the education of Eurasians, and the adverse tone of the criticisms passed upon it by some of the

The Eurasians.

newspapers, dwells on the important position which the Eurasians, although not numerically strong, occupies in the State, and on the necessity of cultivating their friendship and extending sympathy towards them. It should be the duty of those who are seeking to regenerate native society to make liberal concessions, and sacrifice petty interests, in order that they might thus mix with the Eurasians and secure their co-operation. National advancement is not possible in any other way. It is idle to expect that, at the present day, native society can be regenerated by reviving the effete civilization of the old Aryans. A spirit of compromise should more largely pervade the reforms undertaken at the present time, and the European element, which, in India, is represented by the Eurasians, ought to be allowed to have its due share in bringing about the advancement of the country. Government cannot therefore remain indifferent to the poverty and ignorance of this class, and although the Editor would not advocate any measure which aimed at benefiting only a class or section of the people, still, in the present case, he does not think Government has made any invidious distinction in favour of a few.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 12th, 1879.



BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
August 12th, 1879.

3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 12th August, divides the whole period of British administration in India into three portions, namely (1) the period of the East India Company's Rule; (2) the period between the assumption of the Government directly by the Queen to the proclamation of Empire; and (3) the period which has elapsed since the 1st of January 1877. The Editor refers to the three different policies which have been in the ascendant during these periods, and, at the outset, dwells on the inestimable benefits which the introduction of British rule has conferred upon the people of India. It is to be regretted that the policy which guided the rulers when British Government was first established in this country do not continue to shape its actions to the present day. The days of the Company were those of happiness and prosperity to the people. This period was the golden age of the British administration in India. The history of any other country cannot point to names so many or so illustrious as those of the great men who appeared during the hundred years of the Company's rule. Whatever good has accrued to this country from the British conquest was originated or projected by them. The second period was remarkable for the large number of the laws that were passed, and for the establishment of Councils and Courts of Justice. Since the commencement of the third period, efforts have been made to subvert the old order of things. The difference between the policy which regulates the present Government and that which influenced the actions of the East Indian Company is as wide as that between heaven and earth. The present policy is injuring the true interests of India, and has brought a stain on the fair fame of the British Government. The remission of the cotton duties, the Vernacular Press Act, and the attitude of Government towards high English education of the natives of the country are then dwelt upon, and reference is made to a recent speech delivered by Sir David Wedderburn before a meeting of the East Indian Association in England.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 12th, 1879.

4. Government it would seem, remarks the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 12th August, is not satisfied with giving thanks to those who took part in the Afghan war. They have received thanks from the Viceroy, from Parliament, and lastly from the Queen herself. There must have been a dreadful war in Cabul to justify so much exultation on the part of Government. What, however, we cannot understand is, if such things really took place in Afghanistan, why did not the authorities tell the public about them at the time? What they did publish went, on the contrary, to show that there had been no war at all. It may be that this reticence on their part was due to the consideration that a proclamation of the true state of things might terrify us, who are a timid people. It is said that Lord Lytton is engaged in the composition of a grand epic, like the *Rámáyan*, to immortalize this war.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

5. We take the following from an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—The Maharajah of Kashmere, so it is said, neglected to do his duty during the late famine. For this fault, many are advising an annexation of His Highness' territories to those under the British Government. We, however, believe Government will not be so foolish as to act upon the evil advice of these short-sighted officials. At any rate, we hope it will not inflict any punishment on the Maharajah on the ground on which an annexation of his kingdom has been proposed; as in that case Government would be but inculcating the lesson that a neglect of the people committed to his charge, during a period of famine, is the most grievous sin that could be laid at the door of a ruler. And if, after teaching such a doctrine, Government continued indifferent to the hardship of the people and spent its time in pleasures and gaiety, it would lower itself in their estimation. And



should any people more powerful than the British ever arise at any time, they would, for this fault of the rulers, seek to make a conquest of British India.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th August, contains an eloquent article pleading the necessity of rousing the people of India from the torpor of ages. They must be prepared to sacrifice their lives for the promotion of the common cause.

SANJIVANI,  
August 15th, 1879.

7. The practice of the present Administration, writes the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 17th August, does not always agree with its professions. The policy pursued is therefore not a consistent one. Probably the Rulers do not venture upon a free exposition of their policy from a fear that this would make it impossible for them to play the rôle of the benefactors of India. But it is no longer easy to throw dust into the eyes of the people, or to impose upon them by any feats of jugglery. If, however, the present Administration cannot worthily perform its work without acting contrary to its guiding principle, it had better leave the task to others rather than labor under a lasting reproach for the sake of possessing only a short-lived power. The present Rulers have become so unpopular within a short time, and are so confirming wrong notions regarding the British rule in the minds of the people, that the prospect of any improvement in their feelings in this respect is but distant. The public measures which have hitherto been adopted by the present Government have not been calculated to promote the interests of this country; yet it has been precisely these which are said to have been undertaken for its benefit. The rest of the writer's observations are similar to those noticed in paragraph 1 of our last Report, and in paragraph 16 of the Report of the 9th instant.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
August 17th, 1879.

8. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 18th August, contains an article which gives the substance of Lord Lytton's recent despatch on the Afghan war. The Editor promises to return to the subject in a future issue of the paper, and, in the present, contents himself with making the following observations:—Our readers may remember that in almost everything connected with the Afghan war, we have expressed views different from those of Lord Lytton. It is our conviction that there was no necessity for an extension of frontier, that fear of Russia is utterly groundless, that the late Amir had always desired the friendship of the British Government, and that it was the action of the latter only which caused him repeated disappointments. We believe that he was about to seek the protection of Russia only when he had despaired of securing the friendship of the British Government; that the conditions on which the treaty of Gundamuk has been obtained by our rulers might have been obtained without a war; and that, by the prosecution of the Afghan war, Government has but weakened its own position.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 18th, 1879.

9. The same paper thus refers to the increasing interest that is being manifested in England in Indian affairs, the agitation made there by Mr. Lalmohun Ghosh, and the recent speech of Mr. Bright in Willis's rooms. We have cried much and long in our own country, but nothing could melt the hearts of the rulers. Our lamentations rent the sky, but the rulers did not listen to them; and hence crying in India is now as ineffectual as crying in a wilderness. We now rest our hopes on the English people alone—a people whom the atmosphere of India has not contaminated, whose hearts have not yet been polluted by narrow-mindedness, self-seeking, vanity, or other sordid passions.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.



SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1879.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 18th August, asks, in reference to the honors that have been conferred in recognition of services rendered in the Afghan war, whether the recipients have really deserved them. Government is, of course, aware that neither in Europe nor in India is the termination of the Afghan war looked upon as successful or as a matter of glory. The less said about the victory the better. The Editor then refers in an ironical vein to the services of the persons who have been honored on the present occasion.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 12th, 1879.

11. We give below the substance of an article on the License Tax in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 12th August:—It is established beyond doubt that a direct tax is not suited to this country, and this is for the following reasons:—

- (1.)—India is an exceedingly poor country, while even those whose weekly earnings do not exceed Rs. 2 are being taxed. Many who cannot, in these hard times, procure even two meals a day, and others who are obliged to borrow in order to be able to pay the small rent of Re. 1 which may be due to the zemindar, have, in certain instances, been assessed with the tax.
- (2.)—The faulty system of collecting the tax. Half the discontent which has been produced by the operation of the License Tax would never have existed if the system had not been so oppressive, cruel, or unreasonable. That it is so is due to the following—(a) the circle officers have had to do a vast amount of work in a very short space of time. Beyond practising extortions, the enumerators have done positively nothing; (b) the circle officers have been misled by their subordinates, and have not been able to ascertain the true condition of the people; (c) the taxes have been assessed on the strength of information supplied by anybody, and of a superficial examination of a shop or trade. The assessments were based upon conjecture, while the appeals preferred have been expensive and ineffectual; (d) the misconduct of the amlah and the peons, who have sorely harassed the people: in not a few cases, the circle officer himself has been a party to the extortions practised; (e) many persons have had their property seized and sold, although they had paid the tax before; (f) in many instances the property of one has been sold because it was thought to be the property of another.
- (3.)—The people are ignorant, and would bear any amount of oppression rather than protest.
- (4.)—There is no powerful public opinion in the mofussil, while the associations and the newspapers of the metropolis do not take much interest in matters that may be going on in the country.
- (5.)—The people no longer believe in the assurances given by Government regarding the application of the proceeds of the tax. The use of the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess Funds had already created a suspicion in their minds. The repeated pledges given by Lord Lytton, however, in the Legislative Council restored confidence, and they were induced to believe that the country would at



length be covered with a net-work of railways. They have been undeceived. And yet Lord Lytton persists in saying that the License Tax Fund has not been expended on works unconnected with the purpose for which the tax was originally levied. The operation of the License Tax has everywhere produced bitter fruits. The masses of the people having had nothing to do with the inception or repeal of either the Arms Act or the Vernacular Press Act did not comprehend the object of those measures. A reign of law and justice having come after long years of misrule, they were gradually growing partial towards the British administration. The oppressions which have attended the License Tax have, however, destroyed this feeling. If it is the policy of Government to entirely ignore the feelings of the people and establish its authority on might alone, the License Tax may be allowed to continue; otherwise it cannot be abolished too soon; and, as a step in this direction, we would urge the necessity of taking it off from Classes V and VI during this year. We ask Lord Lytton to accede to this prayer of the poor.

12. The same paper refers to the ignorance of civil law shown by many District Judges, who are, however, appointed to hear appeals from the decisions of experienced Munsifs and Subordinate Judges. This ignorance is due to the circumstance that most of these officers are promoted to the District Judgeship from the position of Joint Magistrates, in which they had only to deal with criminal cases. To remedy this defect, it is suggested by the *Hindu Patriot* that, while Joint Magistrates, they should be allowed to try suits for arrears of rent, as this arrangement is likely to give them some insight into civil law and procedure. The Editor joins issue with the *Patriot* on this matter, and contends that the transfer of rent suits to the files of these officers will give them but little training in the work of civil courts, unassisted by a learned bar, as they will be; and the only effect will be that the trial of suits for arrears of rent will be hampered by the difficulties of a criminal procedure. Dismissing therefore the suggestion of the *Patriot* as useless, the Editor proposes that Subordinate Judges should be promoted to the District Judgeships. To fit them for this office, the duties of which require an experience of both civil and criminal work, they should be entrusted with a certain number of criminal cases. The suggestion, if carried out, will be beneficial financially, while it will improve the tone of the Judicial service.

13. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 12th August, states that it has received several letters from persons in the mofussil, all describing the oppressions that are being practised in connection with the working of the Arms Act. Some of the accounts furnished to this journal are regarded as being singularly ludicrous. First, as to oppressions, a correspondent writing from Nuddea says that he is an old man, born of respectable parents, and the head of his village. About twenty years ago, when he was in active service, he had bought a gun, which has now, for a long time past, remained unused. The correspondent had, in fact, forgotten all about it; nor was he aware that the Arms Act had been passed and had come into force. Now, it so happened that a member of the village punchayet (the most unprincipled characters in the village compose this body) came to know of the existence of a gun in the writer's possession, and he forthwith reported the fact to the police, which

BHARAT MINIR,  
August 12th, 1879.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 12th, 1879.

The Arms Act.



arrested the writer and marched him off to the Magistrate by whom he was fined.

Two others writing from Jessore point to the zeal which is being displayed by the Magistrate of that district in taking away from the people all their broken guns, blunted swords, and other weapons, and in making a collection thereof in his court-house. He is also very cautious in issuing licenses under the Arms Act; in fact not more than 50 have been yet granted in this district, where the use of fire-arms is necessary for killing wild beasts. The Editor then refers to the various rumours to which the action of the authorities in this matter has given rise. Some of these are not a little amusing. According to one, Government is making a collection of these useless weapons with a view to make a present of them to the new Amir of Afghanistan, to whom they have not the courage to present good and effective arms. Be that, however, as it may, great uneasiness has been caused by the action of the authorities in reference to the Arms Act; while, from the manner in which the licenses are being granted, it is probable that the ravages of wild beasts and depredations of robbers will be on the increase.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
August 12th, 1879.

14. The same paper dwells on the unpopularity and reproach which have fastened upon the reputation of Government on account of the License Tax. The

Surat riots were the outcome of this measure, and to suppress them Government found it necessary to throw large numbers of men into prison, most of whom were severely punished. Even many innocent persons were charged with having been implicated in the riots. It is well known how certain respectable and influential persons were brought to trial and harassed by the authorities, until at length they were acquitted by the Judges. For all this it was the License Tax which was responsible. Then, again, the expending on the Afghan war of the License Tax Fund, which it was expressly declared would be set apart for purposes of famine relief, has caused a great scandal. The License Tax has further injured the reputation of Government. The whole correspondence between it and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has been so mismanaged on the part of Government, that Lord Lytton's unpopularity has been since intensified a thousandfold.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

15. The same paper is gratified to read the animated debate which took place in the Legislative Council over the Deccan Ryots' Bill, and to notice the independence with which most of the members vindicated the cause of the mahajans, and commented upon the stringent character of the revenue law.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
August 16th, 1879.

16. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 16th August, remarks that the new rules sanctioned by Government for admitting natives into the Civil Service have taken away

the privilege which they had so long enjoyed of entering it by passing a competitive examination in England. Referring to the rules, the Editor asks, since the native officers appointed under them are expected to work as hard as the European, why should a difference be made in their pay? Again, if appointment to the service were to rest on the possession by the candidates of sufficient education and ability, why should there be such a restriction as that one-sixth only of the total number of offices should be reserved for natives? Would it not have been better if one-half of the number had been so reserved? How are the appointments to be made—by a process of nomination or a system of competition? The latter is decidedly the better method, whereas the former will give occasion for favoritism.



17. The same paper remarks that the assessments under the License

The License Tax in Calcutta.

Tax Act would never have caused so much oppressions if they had been made with any

regard to the true income or condition of the assessees. As it is, however, the poor in Calcutta and adjacent localities have been put to extreme hardship from the assessors basing their estimates on wrong information. Not a few persons who have the misfortune of having large houses rented in their names, although in practice they themselves occupy but a small portion of the buildings in question, have been assessed at a high rate, on the assumption that they receive rents for the whole house. Now, appeals in these cases are almost always unsuccessful. The assessor's statement, and not that of the assessee, is believed.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
August 16th, 1879.

18. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 17th August, deprecates the proposal

Illegal Practitioners' Bill.

which the legal practitioners of Calcutta are about to make to Government to enact a law

proscribing the practice of causing plaints and documents to be drawn up by inexperienced and uneducated persons, or those having only a smattering of law. Should such a law be passed, there would not be, the writer contends, any decrease of litigation, for deeds and documents drawn up by even the most clever lawyers are not always free from ambiguity, while suitors will be placed under the necessity of having recourse to the privileged parties alone—a necessity which can only mean an additional drain on their purses. Government, it is hoped, will not entertain any such proposal.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
August 17th, 1879.

19. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 18th August, continues its articles on reform and retrenchment. In the present

Reduction of public expenditure.

number, the expenditure in the Postal De-

partment is referred to. The Editor points out that there is great room for reduction in the inspecting staff of this department, which is composed of an unnecessarily large number of highly paid officers. The posts of Deputy and Assistant Directors-General may be safely abolished, and the work distributed among a first-class Inspector and his subordinates. Similarly, the post of Chief Inspectors of Assam, Rajputana, and the Central Provinces may be dispensed with by throwing some additional work into the hands of the Postmasters-General. The Editor promises to return to the subject.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
August 18th, 1879.

20. The same paper is at a loss to know whether to express gratifica-

The new Civil Service Rules.

tion or regret at the privilege which has now been conferred upon the people of this

country. Unfortunately, they have no right in any matter; what they get is only through the favor of Government; and so it happens that they express themselves as gratified even with small favors. Thus it has been in the present case. "We are glad on account of the favor which has been bestowed upon us, but a little reflection dissipates this feeling. Has the concession now made fulfilled the expectations that Government has raised in our minds since the days of the East India Company? Have we obtained the rights which were conferred upon us by the Charters of 1833 and 1853, or those that were referred to in the proclamation of 1858? Have the expectations raised by Lord Lytton been fulfilled? Has Government now given us, unhampered by any restrictions, appointments to which we have a natural right? The reply would not give satisfaction. It would have been even something if Government had determined upon selecting a third of the entire number of candidates from Bengal. We do not, in the next place, approve of the principle of nomination according to which the appointments are to be made. This will, in practice, lead to jobbery and favoritism. Selection by means of a competitive examination would be the better method. It is idle to argue that this would ensure the admission into the service of men who, although

NAVAVIBHAKAR.



they might be able and educated, could not boast of any high social position. Almost all the best men of our country have come from the common ranks of life, and this does not derogate from the esteem in which they are held. The principle of nomination has again this disadvantage that, if on account of its being in force men of inferior abilities enter the service, they will soon begin to be looked down upon. We do not object to a reduction of the high salaries paid to the Civilian officers of Government; but, if it is made at all, it should apply equally to English and Native Civilians. The number of the latter, according to the rules, would be so small, that a reduction of their pay would not produce any appreciable effect on the finances."

## LOCAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
August 12th 1879.

21. The following is taken from the column of news in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 12th August:—This year there have been good crops everywhere in Mymensingh. In Tangail the *Aus* promises to yield a bumper crop; and this, although portions of the low lands with standing corn are still under water. The poor, however, have not been yet able to tide over the distress caused by scarcity. They have been extremely impoverished, and have lost their credit with the mahajuns.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKĀ,  
August 13th, 1879.

22. A correspondent of the *Ananda Bazar Patrikā*, of the 12th August, refers to the annual destruction of the crops of about thirty villages under the subdivision Goalundo, in the Furrédpoore district, caused by the Gariadaha *khal* overflowing its banks in the rainy season. The loss and hardship occasioned by this circumstance are extreme. The writer asks Government to cause the construction of a dam across this *khal* and the excavation of a canal along the eastern boundary of the village of Arpára for the discharge of the water. The two works will not, it is estimated, cost more than three thousand rupees.

SADHARANI,  
August 17th, 1879.

23. A correspondent of the *Sādhārānī*, of the 17th August, dwells on the miserable condition of the villages of Rajhat, Tārāvīhārī, Bālor, and many other localities situated between the Saraswatī and the Kunti in the Hooghly district. The malarious fever has almost decimated the population. The survivors are still suffering from it. Medical aid is not available. The inhabitants, mostly agriculturists, are poor. The villages abound in jungle, and are infested with wild boars and monkeys, which considerably damage the scant crops raised. There are no good roads, although the road cess has been regularly levied from the emaciated and fever-stricken inhabitants. Nor do there exist any pathshalas or dispensaries in these villages, which have not reaped any benefit from the British rule. Throughout the greater portion of the year the streams are converted into stagnant pools of water, which are both used for bathing and drinking purposes. Corpses are thrown into them. The impure water generates disease and unhealthiness. The attention of Government is asked to this state of things.

SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1879.

24. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 18th August, notices the loss and hardship occasioned every year during the rainy season to the inhabitants of Rámpore, Sítápore, Máyápore, Keshavpore, and certain other villages in the Jehanabad sub-division by the floods of the Damooda. These villages are situated on the western bank of the river. The action of Government in making a breach, near Ráyná, in the embankment which protects the railway, has aggravated their distress. The whole subject is one which should receive the attention of Government.



MISCELLANEOUS.

25. We have this week received three numbers of a monthly journal which has been recently started in Chittagong.

SANSODHINI.

A new paper.

The *Sansodhini* seems to be designed for educational purposes, and promises to be a useful publication. In the last number to hand, the Editor acknowledges, with gratitude, the encouragement and assistance which the local authorities, particularly the Commissioner Mr. Beames, have afforded him in connection with the paper. The numbers received do not contain any articles on political or other matters which might find a place in the Weekly Report.

26. The first two numbers of another Bengali paper, the *Prabháti*, has reached us. It is a daily, published in Calcutta. We shall review them in our next report.

PRABHATI.

A new paper.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M. A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 23rd August 1879.*



